

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 14-16 and the Abstract are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-9 and 21-23, and for indicating that claims 11 and 13-17 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 11 and 13-17 are not rewritten in independent form, because it is believed that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, as discussed below.

II. Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the abstract for exceeding 150 words.

An amended Abstract is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Objection to Claims 14, 15 and 16

The Office Action objects to claims 14, 15 and 16 for lacking proper antecedent basis.

Claim 14-16 are amended. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

IV. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 12, 18-20, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,910,812 to Pommer et al. ("Pommer"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, "an optical coupling member, which is arranged on the other surface side of the transparent substrate and **performs optical coupling between the electro optical element and the optical transmission line**, wherein either the transparent substrate or the optical transmission line support member has a guide pin, while the other one has a guide hole, in which the guide pin is to be inserted, and **the diameter of the guide hole is made larger as compared with the diameter of the guide pin so that a gap is produced between the guide pin and the guide hole, and the gap between the guide pin and the guide hole is filled up with a predetermined filler material.**" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that Pommer does not teach, disclose or suggest such a feature.

The Office Action at page 4, lines 4-12, asserts that Pommer discloses at Figure 15, elements 84, 125 and 228, a guide hole that may be "made larger as compared with the diameter of the guide pin so that a gap is produced between the guide pin and the guide hole (Figure 15), and the gap between the guide pin and the guide hole is filled up with a predetermined filler material (Figure 15, elements 84, 125 and 228)." Applicants respectfully assert that Pommer does not disclose, teach or suggest such a feature.

For example, as stated in Pommer at col. 42, lines 20-24, "FIG. 15 is a side view cross-section (per the dotted line in FIG. 16) schematic of a small scale package 108 according to the present invention, which incorporates an integrated flip-chipped electronic/optoelectronic structure such as the structure shown schematically in FIG. 3." Therefore, the guide pins 72 shown in Figure 15 are merely guide pins protruding from an

optoelectronic structure. No "optical transmission line support member" with a "guide hole, in which the guide pin is to be inserted" is depicted in Figure 15. The alignment insert 84 and adhesive material 228 are merely used to secure guide pins 72 within a sturdy heat sink 105. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Figure 15 cannot be relied upon to disclose the "guide hole" with "filler material" recited in the claims.

Applicant respectfully directs attention to Pommer at Figure 16. Figure 16 depicts the electronic/optoelectronic structure depicted in Figure 15 and the corresponding optical transmission line support member with guide holes 263 that receive guide pins 72. Guide holes 263 are precisely the same diameter as guide pins 72. Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere does Pommer disclose, teach or suggest that guide holes 263 may be "made larger as compared with the diameter of the guide pin so that a gap is produced between the guide pin and the guide hole, and the gap between the guide pin and the guide hole is filled up with a predetermined filler material," as recited in the claims.

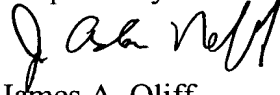
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 12 and 24 include features similar to the feature described above with respect to Claim 10 and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least the same reasons. Claims 11, 13-20 and 25 depend from one of independent claims 10, 12 and 24 and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 20, 2005

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